

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NIC-01 NSC-10 M-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 SCSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-10 EB-11 COME-00

FAA-00 EUR-25 RSR-01 INRE-00 /160 W
----- 094899

O 031155 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1943

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR

DIA

UNCLAS BEIRUT 5059

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINS, ASEC, LE

SUBJ: SECURITY OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS IN LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNS SECURITY SITUATION
AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LEBANON AS OF NOON MAY 3.

2. AIRLINES OPERATING NEAR NORMAL WITH SOME POSTPONEMENTS
OF FLIGHTS (E. G. PANAM HAS RESCHEDULED WESTBOUND FLIGHT
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FROM A. M. TO 6:00 P. M.) AND ACCESS TO AIRPORT NOW RE-OPENED, AT LEAST MOMENTARILY, WITH PASSENGERS STOPPED EN ROUTE AT SEVERAL ARMY CHECKPOINTS BUT NO ACTIVITY SEEN FROM BORDERING PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS, PARTICULARLY FROM AMERICAN TOURISTS, REQUESTING GUIDANCE. WE ADVISING PEOPLE TO STAY IN UNLESS THEY MUST GO OUT FOR ESSENTIAL REASONS BUT OBSERVE SCRUPULOUSLY CURFEW WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED INDEFINITELY. CURFEW WAS LIFTED FROM 9:00 A. M. TO 11:00 A. M. MAY 3.

4. ALL USG FAMILIES SAFE, SOME HAVING BEEN RELOCATED FROM ACTION AREAS. NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES TO DATE.

5. AMERICAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND SALESIAN BOYS SCHOOLS CLOSED UNTIL CURFEW OFFICIALLY LIFTED. BOARDING DEPARTMENT STUDENTS ALL RESTRICTED TO CAMPUS. ALL AMERICAN CHILDREN AT BRITISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO REFUGEE CAMP ON THE AIRPORT ROAD) EVACUATED ALONG WITH OTHER STUDENTS AFTER HAVING REMAINED IN BASEMENT OF SCHOOL FROM MID- DAY MAY 2 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 6:00 A. M. MAY 3.

6. AS OF 1300 LOCAL TIME, BEIRUT GENERALLY QUIETER THAN YESTERDAY OR EARLY THIS MORNING ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ISOLATED INSTANCES OF FIRING. ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS PROCEEDING BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN LEADERS TO RESOLVE CRISIS, SITUATION STILL UNCERTAIN. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD NOT ADVISE TRAVEL TO BEIRUT TODAY BUT HOPEFUL SITUATION MAY PERMIT TOMORROW.
HOUGHTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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